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## TWO DAYS IN BIRMINGHAM.

I HAD lately, in the course of an expedition southwards, an opportunity of spending two days in Birmingham, and, spite of the triteness of the subject to many, I am tempted to give a brief and rapid sketch of the principal wonders of that great seat of the most national of our manufactures.

In the midst of a green and beautiful part of Warwickshire, this city of many busy hands is found seated on and amidst a number of rising grounds, over which may be seen at all times hovering a dingy canopy of smoke vomited from the mouths of a hundred tall chimneys, and giving token of the untiring industry of the inhabitants. Placed within a few miles of the coal and iron mines of Staffordshire, with which, and the other populous districts of England, a ready and economical communication is kept up by canals and railways, and salubrious from its generally elevated position, a more favourable spot could not be pointed out for the seat of a large trade in metallic manufactures; and accordingly, from less to more, the town has grown up to be the principal mart of that species of wares. Its only rival, indeed, is Sheffield, though rivalry is scarcely a proper term; for the manufactures of Sheffield are of cutlery, not made at all in Birmingham, and a few other branches not largely pursued here. The manufactures of both, however, possess a general resemblance, and are conducted upon a similar scale and principle. 'Factories,' which one now hears so much about, are of two classes; one, which embraces the production of cotton, silks, and other tissues, being conducted on a magnificent scale, with large buildings and the most expensive machinery, consequently involving the outlay of enormous capital—usually from L.100,000 to L.200,000 in one concern: the other, not by any means imposing, and which, requiring a union of operative skill with the labour only of small machines, can be carried on by a limited capital—from L.20,000 to L.30,000 at the utmost. To this second class the manufactures of Sheffield and Birmingham belong. In the latter town, to which I exclusively direct attention, a population of upwards of 220,000 is chiefly employed in trades in which a considerable amount of personal labour and ingenuity are required. Metal-rolling; brass-founding; nail, pin, and button-making; japanning; papier maché, pencil-case, steel-pen, and lamp-manufacturing, are among the multifarious trades pursued by as many as 2100 firms. Some of these firms are so limited as to consist of only a master and a few operatives, while others number as many as five hundred workers. In many instances the small firms may almost be described as of a domestic character, the work being carried on in the houses of the masters, and for the supply of certain articles to the larger capitalist.

On the morning after our arrival, the first establish-

ment to which a kind friend obligingly conducted us was one of the largest in the town—a rolling mill, where lumps and bars of various metals are pressed into sheets and strips of different sizes and thicknesses. Moved by two steam-engines, one of 80 and another of 60 horse-power, there were here seen various machines of enormous force for rolling and cutting the pieces of metal presented to them. The rolling machines consist principally of smooth iron cylinders revolving at a regulated distance from each other, which, by dragging in the piece of metal offered to them by a man on one side, squeeze it to the desired thickness, and deliver it to a person opposite. Yet the thinning, for the most part, requires several successive pressures, the distance between the cylinders being lessened each time by regulating screws. In this way a lump of iron, the size of an ordinary brick, may be pressed out to a thinness suitable for a sword-blade or some other implement. As an example of what could be done in this way, a piece of tin about an inch and a half in length, an inch in width, and a quarter of an inch in thickness, was, by successive pressings between rollers, squeezed to seventeen feet in length, and made to have all the appearance of a glittering ribbon of metal. Copper for coins, sheathing, and other purposes, metal for buttons, zinc for house covering, &c. are by such means pressed with ease, as far as personal labour is concerned, and with the most surprising quickness. After being pressed, the sheets of copper are placed for a certain time in an oven to be annealed, whence they are finally dragged by large pincers, to be cooled in water. The floor of the large workshop in which these diverse operations are performing is deeply layered with pieces of iron, and the noise of handling and throwing down the metal is incessant.

At this establishment we saw several other processes, among the rest the grinding of sword-blades on large revolving sandstones: but not to linger on such particulars, I shall proceed to what is decidedly the most curious of the Birmingham manufactures—an establishment for button-making. I confess, that, till I was introduced to this branch of art, I entertained by no means a sufficient respect for that apparently insignificant object—a button; nor are the ideas of the world, I fear, much more enlightened on the subject. To the initiated, buttons are an important article; much ingenuity is displayed in their manufacture, and by some makers more capital is expended in wages than is imparted to the whole population of many a rural parish. Great improvements have been effected in this manufacture in recent times. There are now not only gilt, plated, and metal buttons—buttons of horn, pearl, glass, and enamel—but buttons of Florentine and silk, such as are seen on black or coloured cloth coats, buttons of linen for shirts, and a peculiar kind of metal buttons

for braces. I should imagine, from what came under our notice, that there are at least two dozen species of the genus button, each species subdivided into numerous varieties, as respects size, quality, colour, and other circumstances. Perhaps at the head of the whole mechanic of button fabrication we should place the artist who contrives new varieties, for there are persons in Birmingham who live by this exercise of the inventive faculty. Modelling in wax any new pattern of button which strikes their fancy, they submit it to the different manufacturers, one after the other, for approval, and if adopted, the ingenuity obtains its appropriate reward. The modelling of roundish gilt buttons of an ornamental pattern for dress-coats is among the principal resources of this order of authors—authors of a button! Nor do I doubt that as great fortunes have been realised from the copyright of a good button, as from productions of much higher pretensions.

In the large establishment I visited, nearly five hundred persons were employed, the whole distributed through a number of brick buildings of two or three storeys in height, and surrounding interior courtyards—the rooms generally spacious and well-ventilated. Each species of button had its own department, and, as may be supposed, there was a minute division of labour. The first department into which I was conducted was that for the metal, gilt, and plated sorts. A button of any of these kinds consists rudimentally of a disk punched from a plate of metal. The making and fixing of the shanks are more curious operations than the actual cutting out of the button. The shank being formed by bending and shaping, is dipped slightly into a soldering composition, and placed as it is to stand on the under side of the button. To make it adhere, the button with the shank are stuck between a bent piece of metal not unlike a Jew's harp in shape, and such clasps, each holding its button, are placed hundreds at a time in an oven, where the heat effects the required union. The placing of the shanks on the buttons in this manner is performed by women with amazing rapidity. The gilding or silvering is effected by a chemical wash: on rinsing a certain quantity together in an earthen jar along with the required chemical and metallic compound, they assume a different colour, and the process in some cases is finished by stoving a short space of time in an oven. A handful of brace buttons were thus given a beautiful white appearance during the few minutes we were looking on. The stamping of the buttons for livery, army, or naval uniform, or with any ornamental design, is an important branch of the art. Presses, however, such as are employed for striking coins and medals, are not used. The machine for striking the pattern is very simple. The button being placed to receive the blow on the upper surface, a weight faced with a die is allowed to descend smartly upon it, so as to produce the impression. To cause the weight to fall straight on the top of the button, it is guided in its course between two upright iron bars. When the blow has been given, the weight is instantly raised again by a cord passing over a pulley down to a loop round the right foot of the operator. The workman's foot, therefore, is the agent of force, while his hands are busy arranging the buttons. A row of a dozen men at a bench, each with his apparatus before him, will in this manner stamp an immense number of buttons in a day. In some parts of the operation boys assist; and in the apartment we observed two of these, young creatures in pinafores, busily shaking bags of buttons for the purpose of wearing off rough edges by the attrition. This exercise appeared too hard for such little fellows. The finer kinds of round gilt buttons are chased by the hand; but this delicate and artistic kind of work is performed by men of a higher class.

From the metal, I was led to the Florentine and silk-button department. Florentine is a twilled worsted stuff, and the greater number of buttons on cloth garments are now formed of this material. While a metal button consists of only two things—the disk and the shank—a Florentine button, as may be observed on dissecting one, is a much more compound article. Each consists of two pieces of cloth, a morsel of pasteboard and glutinous material, an interior skeleton of metal, and an outer disk of metal, through which a portion of cloth is projected to form the shank. To prepare and put all these together in a single button, fourteen pair of hands, and a number of machines, are employed, and yet by the division of labour a set of fourteen buttons can be sold for three-halfpence. We have, indeed, in the Florentine, and also the figured silk-button, one of the finest specimens of British art. What a stretch of ingenuity has been exerted in the complication of the structure, may be guessed from the external appearance of the object. We observe that by some means the materials, soft and hard, have been crushed into shape; but how, no one can conjecture. Yet, as in all other wonderful products of art, one requires only to see the thing done, to admire its simplicity. Pressure by small stamping presses is the universal agent. The materials being placed in a certain manner under the point of one of these presses, a sudden jerk and squeeze produces a button in an advanced stage, and by another press the rim is crushed in to a level with the under surface. All the operations are performed by women and girls. In room after room you see from fifty to sixty females seated at long benches, and each busily engaged with her small iron press in thus forming the buttons into their proper shape. When the silk or other material has a raised flower which must show itself in the middle of the button, great care is employed to effect this critical result; for if the flower be but in the slightest degree off the centre, the button will be rejected by the tailor. The marking of centres while the cloth is in piece, is a branch of the button-making art requiring a fine eye and judgment. An instrument resembling a large needle, on which there is a moveable ring, is held in the hands of the girl as she sits looking at the cloth before her. Rapidly she places the point of the needle on the centre of the flower, while with the other hand she brings down the ring on the cloth, and as the ring has previously been daubed with whitening, it leaves a circular white mark on the cloth. Another operator stamps out the cloth exactly on the circles, and the round pieces so prepared are ready for coming under the presses. On leaving this department, I was shown the dépôt whence the cloth is served out; and here I was told that some thousands of yards are used in the manufacture monthly. On leaving the Florentine and silk departments, I was taken into those devoted to the making of white linen buttons for shirts and other articles, which were also full of the same kind of interest, and then conducted through several apartments in which numbers of children and women were employed in placing the various kinds of buttons on cards, and tying them up in packets. The sewing of the shirt buttons on blue cards was performed with amazing celerity. A dozen little girls were engaged in this work, and I was informed by a superintending matron that one of the most nimble-fingered girls under her charge could sew on 3600 buttons a-day, or upwards of 21,000 per week. Sewing at this rate, the hands do not seem to be an instant at rest, but perform their evolutions with the expertness of the most accomplished juggler. An exceedingly good hand, I was told, could touch thirty gross a-day, which will yield wages of 16s. weekly.

The impression left on the mind by a walk through this large button-manufactory is, that the work, on the whole, is light and cleanly, though demanding a constant stretch of attention. A considerable number of the women are married, which is an unpleasant feature, inasmuch as their families must thereby be deprived of their care; and not a few of the children seem too young for any regular occupation; yet by the respectable proprietor of the establishment much is done in the way of moral

supervision; and he has justly remarked, in his evidence before government commissioners, 'that if the children were excluded from the manufactories, they would be neglected by their parents, not sent to school, and left to stroll about the streets. In the event of any legislative restriction on this point, it would be imperatively necessary that attendance at school should be enforced, or the most dangerous consequences would result.'

The scene which we encountered at one of the largest pin-manufactories in Birmingham, impressed us far more forcibly with the sad spectacle of infant labour; for here there was not only irksome bodily toil, but positive squalor and wretchedness. Pin-making is divided into the following departments—wire-drawing, wire-straightening, cutting, pointing, head-spinning, head-cutting, heading, cleaning and whitening, and sticking or papering. The whole are conducted in a few workshops of mean appearance, dirty, and badly ventilated. We were first shown the process of drawing the wire to the proper fineness, which is done by revolving horizontal wheels in rapid motion drawing the wire through holes of the required compass; the wire I happened to see was thus reduced a third in thickness, and consequently extended a third in length. Removed in coils from the drawing-bench, the wire is next straightened into lengths of perhaps ten or twelve feet. A wheel which draws the wire between fixed iron pegs on a table, very simply effects this purpose. Men and boys are engaged in these operations. The wire is now cut by a machine into the length of four or six pins, according to size. Next, a handful of perhaps fifty of these lengths of wire, spread out evenly like the teeth of a comb, are held slopingly to a grind-stone, and moved between the fingers in a particular manner, till they are all pointed on one end; the other end is next pointed in the same manner; and so on with the different lengths into which the pieces of wire are cut. The process of pointing can scarcely fail, I should think, to affect the health of the operator; for although the brass dust flies away behind the stone into a wooden receptacle which covers it like a hood, a portion at least will reach the mouth and lungs of the grinder; yet he employs no precaution to avert any such injurious consequences. From the pointing department, in which ten or twelve men were engaged, we entered the room devoted to head-making. The spinning of the heads is performed by boys. A long wire being fixed to the spindle of a wheel, another wire is spun round it; when the inner wire is filled, it is drawn out, leaving six or eight feet of spiral, like the fine spring of a brace. With a handful of such spirals, a man sitting at a scissor-like machine chops off at each movement a portion of each, to the extent perhaps of two rounds. In this manner vast quantities of heads are prepared by one or two men and boys for the heading department, which is the only one displaying great mechanical ingenuity. Conducted down stairs to the heading-room, we were startled with the unsightly appearance of from fifty to sixty children, more dirty and ragged than English children usually are, sitting in rows at low benches, each working with incessant diligence at a little iron machine moved by a treadle beneath. The process commences with catching up a head with the pointed end of the pin, and placing the pin in a small orifice in the machine, so as to leave the head only visible; a weight or die let fall by a sudden jerk, communicated from the treadle, at once fixes the head, and gives it the neat shape which pin heads now usually have; and the operation is completed by a movement which ejects the pin, and leaves room for its successor. It is impossible to describe the dexterity with which the small fingers of the juvenile operative catch a dozen heads on the points of as many pins from a quantity lying before him, and with what quickness he drops one after the other into the machine, jerks on its head, and expels it as a completed article. The fixing of fifty heads per minute seems a fair calculation, and multiplying this number by fifty operators working ten hours a-day, we have produced in this single apartment 150,000 pins per hour, or 1,500,000 in a day, or nearly ten millions weekly! No wonder there have been grave

inquiries as to what becomes of all the pins! The pin, however, is not yet finished. From the heading-room the pins are carried to an outhouse, where they are cleaned in a barrel with a quantity of hot water and a detergent ley. After tempering in an oven, they are boiled in a solution of tin, which tins or whitens them. They are then cleaned in cold water, and next dried and polished by being churned in a barrel containing dry rough bran. The bran is then winnowed out, and the pins are ready to be carried to the final department of papering. The sticking of the pins in papers occupies a number of young women, who perform their task with great neatness and dexterity, assisted by an instrument for holding the paper in folds before them. Thus ends the history of a pin, whose progress is doubtless at variance with humanity, in so far as the employment of young children is concerned. Yet that vagrancy and destitution would be the lot of these unfortunate creatures if not allowed to work at this or some other employment, is perhaps equally certain; and hence the main difficulty of all legislation about infant labour.

From the pin establishment we proceeded to a manufactory of cut nails, and then to a manufactory of screw nails. Hand-made nails continue to be produced in large and perhaps undiminished quantities in different parts of the country; but machine-made nails are now also used to a very large extent. The factory we went to see was devoted exclusively to the making of nails by machinery. A steam-engine of fifty horse-power moved long ranges of machines, before each of which stood a lad with a rod of iron in his hand, and the duty of this operative consisted in little else than holding the rod to the machine, which chopped off and stamped a head upon the nails at the rate probably of fifty in the minute. The nails dropped in a finished state from a hopper into a basket. About a hundred men and boys were employed in this work; and I was informed that the produce of nails, large and small, is from fifteen to twenty millions weekly. It is not unusual to receive an order for a million nails, all of one size. The screw-nail manufactory is a different concern. In this establishment we found a considerable number of women employed, in one room as many as sixty, all busily engaged in turning the screws at small iron engines placed before them on a bench. The cutting of the lengths, heading, screw and notch cutting, and other parts of the process, although performed by the agency of steam-power, appeared throughout to be anything but work for women. Some of these females can turn out 24 gross of screws in a day, and at this rate they will realise from 6s. to 8s. weekly. Hard as the labour is, the workers were apparently healthy.

Among other establishments to which our friends introduced us in Birmingham, the most interesting was one for the manufacture of papier maché articles. All kinds of papier maché ware are here produced, many of them in a style of great elegance. Papier maché I had supposed to be a French invention, but I was here assured that it is of English extraction, and that there is nothing French about it but the name. Be this as it may, it is an ingenious art, and does credit to its discoverers. The paper, the basis of the workmanship, is not by any means mashed, as one might imagine, but consists of layers pasted together, sheet after sheet, upon a model; at each new accession the fabric being smoothed and dried in an oven. The whole process is in the hands of women, numbers of whom may be seen pasting the sheets, and rubbing them smooth on the previously-spread and dried layers. The paper is a stout material, greenish in hue, and is generally increased by layers till upwards of the eighth of an inch thick. The article is then cut from the model, rubbed to a state of great smoothness by pumice and other stones, and then varnished. It is again smoothed, and again varnished, till it has attained an almost metallic brilliancy. The last polishing is done by women's hands, and the cultivation of soft hands is therefore a matter of great importance to these operatives. A woman having broad soft palms and elastic fingers and thumbs commands the highest wages as a polisher. When the article is inlaid with mother-of-pearl, the process of



rubbing is more tedious. The pearl being laid on according to the required pattern, coat after coat of varnish is brushed over the whole article, till the varnish is filled up to a level with the pearl. The whole is now rubbed, the varnish on the top of the pearl coming off first, until the surface is perfectly smooth. Those who have wondered how papier maché articles are inlaid with pearl, will now understand that pearl inlaid with varnish would be a more correct form of expression, and that the process is therefore one of the most simple in the arts. The gilding and painting of the articles were exhibited in another apartment, an atelier, in which we found some clever young men designing landscapes and figures on the objects before them. After receiving these embellishments, the articles are coated with a transparent varnish, and, when dry, are ready for sale.

Not to tire the reader, I shall not drag him after us to any more of the manufacturing establishments of Birmingham, but conclude with a few remarks on what is not less interesting, the social condition of this great hive of mechanical industry. From the miscellaneous nature of the employments, and the working of different members of the same family, old and young, male and female, at different occupations, it is stated that the population suffers considerably less from depressions in trade than that of most other manufacturing towns of a large size. The wages generally realised are not too low to obtain the means of subsistence when employment can be procured at all; but, according to the result of inquiries by the factory commissioners,\* it appears that improvident habits are not less common here than elsewhere. Besides a general want of economy, drunkenness, we are told, with all its attendant miseries, prevails to a great extent: as is almost invariably the case, 'it most generally prevails among that class of workmen who obtain the highest wages, and these are often found in the most deplorable and abject condition. The improvidence of which we are speaking is to be traced in very many instances to extreme ignorance on the part of the wives of these people. The females are from necessity bred up from their youth in the workshops, as the earnings of the younger members contribute to the support of the family. The minds and morals of the girls become debased, and they marry totally ignorant of all those habits of domestic economy which tend to render a husband's home comfortable and happy; and this is very often the cause of the man being driven to the alehouse to seek that comfort after his day of toil, which he looks for in vain by his own fireside. The habit of a manufacturing life being once established in a woman, she continues it, and leaves her home and children to the care of a neighbour, or of a hired child sometimes only a few years older than her own children. To this neglect on the part of their parents is to be traced the death of many children.' A similar tale was told us at Birmingham, which, though exceedingly salubrious in point of climate and situation, has a large ratio of mortality in comparison with that of the metropolis and the agricultural districts. 'According to the second report of the Registrar-general (continues the authority above quoted), the ratio is proportionally greatest in Manchester, next in Leeds, then in Liverpool, and fourthly in Birmingham; in each of which places more than one-half of the total number of deaths registered are those of children who had not attained their fifth year; whilst it is remarkable, that in the metropolis the number of registered deaths of children under five years of age is only in the proportion of one to nearly two and a-half of the total number of deaths. In the parish of Birmingham, in the year registered from July 1, 1838, to June 30, 1839, the total number of deaths of all ages was 3303; of which number 1658 were under five years of age. Of this last number more than one-half died in their first year.' No commentary on the excessive employment of female labour in factories could, we think, be more expressive than this solitary fact.

Yet all is not a cheerless scene of labour, improvidence,

and premature decay. There is great activity of mind among the industrious orders of Birmingham. Instruction, a taste for reading, and other tokens of advancement, are becoming daily more observable; one important means of melioration, however, being still wanting—extensive open grounds for out-door recreation. Great benefit, as I learned, had arisen from the establishment of Sunday schools, without which many thousands would have remained for ever ignorant of letters. A school of design, aided by government, has latterly been added to the means of popular education, and is now well attended. Some years ago, a class of institutions had been established in Birmingham, which I was anxious to hear something of. These were styled self-supporting dispensaries, and were designed to reform the abuse of charitable medical attendance, which was evidently undermining the independent feelings of the people. The dispensaries got up for this purpose had not been unsuccessful; but they have ultimately declined, and given place to institutions more comprehensive and serviceable to the working man and his family. This new class of institutions, suggested and greatly forwarded by Mr Sanders, surgeon in Birmingham, are much upon the plan of the benefit, sick, and burial societies common in Edinburgh and other large towns in Scotland, and are for the most part connected with congregational Sunday schools. They are styled 'Provident and Independent Institutions,' and their declared objects are, 'to enable the provident and industrious of both sexes, and of all ages and trades, residing within three miles of the place of meeting, to provide against sickness either by mutual assurance or by independent savings; also to enable them to provide for the exigencies arising from old age, births, deaths, and want of employment; and to do it at such time, and in such manner, as shall best suit the circumstances of each individual; and to obtain perfect security, with good and regular interest for their money.'

Those who take an interest in social economics will be pleased with the following account of one of the most successful of these institutions, which began in 1835, and now numbers upwards of 600 members, a large portion of whom are children in the Sunday schools. It comprises three branches—a saving-fund, a medical attendance fund, and a sick-pay fund; and one of its peculiarities is the employment of well-educated surgeons, and the supply of all medicines required for the sick member. A medical certificate is necessary on admission; and both entrance and future payments are regulated by age—a rule too frequently neglected by such associations. The saving fund is conducted on similar principles to those of the Savings' Bank, interest at the rate of L.3. 6s. 8d. for the year upon the hundred pounds being added half-yearly to the sum deposited. Every facility is afforded for the withdrawal, at any time, of the money so invested. The medical attendance and sick-pay fund, though kept in separate amounts, may be considered as undivided, and in the following remarks will be so treated. 'The subscriptions vary from one penny to about one shilling per week, according to the age of the member and the weekly sick-pay insured. The children in the Sunday schools, by subscribing a penny, insure in case of sickness the attendance of a surgeon, the supply of the requisite medicine, two shillings per week sick-pay, and one pound at death. Children out of the schools pay 1½d. to secure the same privileges. A member entering at thirty years of age, by subscribing 11d. per week, would insure medical advice, medicines, 20s. per week sick-pay, and L.10 at death. The great advantage of early entrance and continuance in these clubs will be seen by the following illustrations. To secure 12s. per week in sickness, with medical attendance and medicines, and L.6 at death, the weekly subscription of a member entering at 21 years of age is 5½d.; if he enter at 31, it is 7d.; and at 41, 10d. The subscriptions for members entering late in life may be high, compared with the rate of payments in ordinary clubs, but the security of the institution, by rendering it a refuge for old age, and an unfailing resource in after-life for sickness and infirmity, fully justifies the additional charge.' At present, the society has a well-secured fund amounting to nearly L.600 to meet all

\* Sanitary Inquiry—England: 1842.

claims, notwithstanding the many demands upon it. As many of the working-classes, from an ignorance of the principles of assurance, connect themselves with public-house clubs, and are too often the victims of miscalculation or fraud, I am happy to make them acquainted with a class of provident institutions on which they may rely with confidence and satisfaction.

So ends my two days in Birmingham.

## THE DEATH BLANKET.

BY PERCY R. ST. JOHN.

A CAREFUL examination of the map of North America will show that the Blackfeet are a race of Indians dwelling on the Marias, the Yellowstone, and other tributaries of the Missouri, bounded towards the north by the Ojibbeways and Knistennaux, on the west by the Flatheads and Shoshonies, on the east and south by the Corbeaux, or Crows. In number about sixty thousand, they are warlike and predatory in the extreme, treat the traders with haughtiness, which, considering the fate of such aboriginal tribes as have mixed with the whites, is the less surprising; by their enemies are called blood-thirsty and relentless; and by the few white men who have dwelt amongst them from other motives than that of disposing of the insidious fire-water in exchange for furs, are designated as brave, fearless, honourable enemies, and true specimens of nature's gentlemen.\* Their costume is picturesque and elegant, though one feature in it is of a terrible cast. Beautifully dressed deerskin tunics, leggings and moccasins of the same, with a band two inches in width down the seams exquisitely embroidered with porcupine quills, and further ornamented with small locks of black hair taken from the scalps of the enemy—such is their apparel. When mounted on their sturdy horses, with the short bow of horn or *bois d'arc*, the arrow, shield, and long spear, they may not inaptly be called the American Arabs. The skin of a buffalo bull, carefully garnished with porcupine quills, and painted rudely inside with representations of battle scenes, is often used as a cloak. Their spear heads are of steel; and their shields of buffalo, hardened with glue from that animal's hoof, will, when carefully turned, glance a rifle bullet. The women, obedient and meek, dress not so expensively, indeed, it be a favourite young wife, upon whom, by way of great kindness, a coat of mountain goat-skin and a robe of young buffalo hide may be lavished. The costume of the children is so natural as to require no description, being, indeed, somewhat less intricate than that of the fat little native of Yucatan described by Stephens as putting on his hat as his sole article of clothing.

In the year 1828, a year ever memorable in the traditions of the Blackfoot nation, a village of this people was temporarily situated at the junction of a small stream with the Yellowstone. The tents were pitched on the right bank of the river to the number of 2500, placed along the water's edge in the position each thought most handy and convenient. For many days had they dwelt in that region, the buffalo being abundant and fat, and the hunters fully employed in laying in a stock of this staple food of the prairie. No animal is of greater utility than this mighty monarch of the American plains, the countless myriads of which, wandering hither and thither over the ocean-like expanse from the Rocky Mountains to Canada, and the frontiers of the States, is

bread, meat, and clothing to the wild red man. As it migrates, the Indian follows, and keeping in the rear of the mighty horde, chases it with his sturdy horse and unerring bow; and rarely, indeed, is the warrior without the means of satisfying his appetite. When it is remarked that the buffalo bull often weighs 2000 pounds, it is at once seen what an acquisition a single animal is to a village. If this were the proper place to do so, we could expatiate through many columns on the various uses of this animal. The wigwams of the Blackfeet are made of buffalo skins sewed together, having been first dressed and shaped in a convenient manner. Some thirty pine poles, twenty-five feet in height, and lashed together at the summit, formed the frame, a hole at the top giving both light and vent to the smoke. Nothing can be more simple than the construction of this species of tent, which can be taken down and packed on the baggage horses, or dogs, with the utmost rapidity.

Early one morning, a short time after the sun had first shown itself from behind the low grassy mounds in the east, there lay concealed, on the ridge of a green knoll overlooking the village, a human being. His position was such as to command a full view of the whole of the lodges, the river, and the far-spreading prairie, which, like a huge sea, swelled interminably to the east and the west, the north and the south. The muddy and cream-coloured Yellowstone rolled majestically at his feet, herds of buffalo were visible grazing afar off, but for neither had the stranger any eye. His glance was fixed upon the village, in which was visible the stir of a hunting party. Presently a long line of mounted warriors rode forth scouring the plain, and eager for the fray, though buffaloes, and not men, were the game sought after. Still, the excitement was great, death was to be dealt around, and to the wild untutored Indian the chase was the mimic representation of that far fiercer war held by him to be more ennobling and manly. At length the women, children, and old braves alone remained within the circle of the wigwams; and most of the former began to employ themselves in the exercise of those duties which constitute the peculiar employment of these laborious and patient creatures. Some were engaged in dressing skins of deer, goat, or buffalo, others studiously laboured at making pemmican, drying buffalo meat, and preparing marrow fat, called 'trapper's butter,' and the other luxuries afforded by the carcass of the bison. Others, again, more femininely domestic, were sewing moccasins or tunics, nursing, meanwhile, their dark-skinned babes, which, mild and innocent as they appeared, were doomed, if they lived, to follow the war-path, to chase their hereditary enemies, the Crows and Assineboins, and to take their reeking scalps. Low, monotonous, and yet musical was the lullaby of these embrowned dames as they rocked the cradles by their every motion, it being, as usual, suspended to the back by a strap across the forehead. A few maidens, not yet entered on their matronly duties, sauntered down to the river side to bathe their dusky limbs, and these it was that the stranger watched with the most evident interest. Presently one more comely than the rest, and who, though not more than sixteen, presented the air and mien of a princess—so firmly, majestically, and bravely did she walk—separated herself from the rest, and, as if seeking for a more convenient spot, wandered down the stream towards the mound in question. A smile crossed the face of the skulking stranger; and rolling himself down the declivity on the opposite side to the village, he stood awaiting the girl's approach. Though darkened and tanned by exposure, it was plain that he was a white man. Henry Williams, such was his name, a student of medicine, had, some six months back, reached the station of the American fur company at the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri. Throughout the year, large parties of Indians assemble at this spot to trade peltries for powder, whisky, beads, &c. and among these were the Pe-a-gan Blackfeet above-described. Henry Williams had never been decidedly in love;

\* Many names might be mentioned in connexion with this view of the subject; Catlin is, however, the most conspicuous. I heard my account from trappers, who painted the Blackfeet, as Farnham has expressed it, 'blood-thirsty and thievish.'

many times he had fancied himself assailed by the tender passion, but each time some little absence or other circumstance had disproved the idea. His heart was then peculiarly open to new impressions. He saw Ah-key-nes-tou, a young and handsome Blackfoot (by the way, that pedal limb was in her a ruddy brown), the affianced bride of In-ne-cose, the Iron-horn. More reason for loving her. In-ne-cose was a morose and ill-favoured Indian, whose only recommendation was his wealth, since he was even not full-blooded, his father having been of the hated race of the Crows. Many years a prisoner among his father's clan, and at length released, his valour earned for him a high place among the relatives of his mother, though some shrewdly surmised that his abandonment of the country of his father arose from reasons not much to his credit. Still he was rich in peltries, scalps, and horses, had four wives already, and who could refuse him his daughter, even though that daughter were Ah-key-nes-tou? Williams thought the match a decidedly improper one; and as the girl wanted yet two months of sixteen, when the warrior was to claim his bride, he determined if possible to prevent it. The task was far from an easy one, since Ah-key-nes-tou, though she owned to a secret predilection for her white lover, yet knew that she had been paid for, two horses having been duly received from In-ne-cose by her parents. Now Ah-key, as Williams called her, was an honourable girl, and having, ere Henry paid his court to her, been proud of the richest man in the tribe as her suitor, had not refused her consent to the match, especially when her little heart was gratified by the sight of two noble horses handed to her father in exchange for his daughter. But Williams had, during some dozen stolen interviews, filled her head with newfangled notions. He had persuaded the dusky damsel that mutual love was the most delightful thing in existence; had offered to quit home, friends, all for her sake; and, wedding her, become a wild hunter of the prairie. Last, but not least, he intended to offer six horses as his bridal gift. Still, In-ne-cose had been accepted; Ah-key considered herself his affianced wife, and both the lovers were particularly miserable and uncomfortable. Williams had left the steamer in which he was journeying up stream, and which for the first time visited that remote spot in the wilderness, to hurry on to the Pe-a-gan Blackfoot village overland, and was one day in advance of his white friends.

Williams and Ah-key met, and, without speaking, seated themselves on a green bank. The young man took the girl's hand, and looking her fondly in the face, remained silent during some minutes. At length he spoke. 'The days have been very long while the red-rose was absent from the sight of the young medicine. The sun was very bright, but I could not see; the moons are going fast, and the red-rose opens not its buds; soon, and the Iron-horn will want a fifth bride in his wigwam. The young medicine wishes but one bride; the earth is very full, but his tent is empty.' A slight tremor shook the Indian girl as she replied. It was, however, but for an instant. 'Ah-key-nes-tou has a heart, and it is very red; her father willed her to be the wife of a chief. Two have come, a red-skin and a pale-face. The red-skin is brave, but his heart is black; it is that of a Crow. The pale-face is young, and his tongue speaks no lies; he has no mate. The heart of Ah-key-nes-tou is very small; it can hold but one. I see it, and it shows me the face of a young medicine; but a wide river parts the red-rose and the pale-face. In-ne-cose had in his hand a black horse swift as the antelope, and a brown mare which never tires; they are not to be found in their place. The father of Ah-key-nes-tou counts two more than he did when the moon was young.'

'But,' replied the young man, as with mixed joy and grief he listened to the sad musical tones of the Indian girl, 'the medicine of the pale-faces is rich; he will give three horses for one that the Iron-horn has sent.'

To be valued at six of those useful animals was almost too much for the Blackfoot maiden; but she restrained her emotions of pride, and replied, 'The heart of my brother is large, he sets no count on a stray mule, but he cannot bring back the young moon. In-ne-cose misses his two steeds in the chase, and wants a squaw to dress his meat.'

Now, the idea of Ah-key's becoming anybody's squaw save his own, was more than Williams could look at patiently. His indignation would have exploded in words, but that, just as certain sentences of dire import were crowding to his tongue, his pretty young Blackfoot mistress rose calmly, and yet with so keen a fire in her eye, that Henry saw something unusual had happened. 'My brother is very wise,' said she smiling, 'but he does not hear a snake in the grass. The Iron-horn sees afar off; the young medicine of the pale-faces is not in his own wigwam. But no Blackfoot must say a brave has hidden near the camp of his friend. The red-rose will see if the water of the river can make her white, and my brother must go eat in the village of the Pe-a-gans.'

Williams comprehended at once that In-ne-cose had been watching them. Though this was no pleasant intelligence, yet could he not but smile at the quiet humour of his ruddy mistress, who, sooth to say, could not be called fair. Her behest was obeyed in an instant, after a rapid interchange of certain glances, which, amid lovers of all nations, creeds, and colours, are intuitively understood. His ponderous western rifle was then shouldered, and the summit of the mound once more gained. Standing so as to be seen by the whole village during some minutes, he slowly descended, and walked towards the lodge of the principal chief, an old brave, who, besides being the father of Ah-key-nes-tou, had the additional recommendation of being a personal friend, in consequence of the interchange of certain gifts, wherein the white man had shown himself unprecedentedly liberal. The reception by the old man was cordial and warm; breakfast and a pipe being immediately offered and accepted. After a due time devoted to the inhaling of the odoriferous kinnee-kinnee, Williams cautiously broached a subject which had occupied the thoughts and tongues of both on more than one occasion—namely, the disposal of the old man's daughter. The chief owned that he should be highly honoured by the white medicine's alliance, and equally highly pleased by the promised horses; but the affianced state of the maiden was a matter of by far too serious moment, he argued, to be treated lightly. 'In-ne-cose is a warrior, a brave; his wigwam has many scalps; he has smoked his pipe in the council-chamber, and his arm is very strong. The people of my tribe would say that War-Eagle was an old squaw if he shut his eyes against In-ne-cose.' Williams owned that there certainly were difficulties to be got over, but still could not think any of them insurmountable. He therefore quietly informed War-Eagle that a fire-ship was expected to reach the village before sunset, when his baggage and tent would be landed, preparatory to his taking up his residence among the Blackfeet. War-Eagle appeared pleased at the determination, and pointed out the summit of the hill where he had been first seen as an appropriate camping-ground. Williams assented, and then mounting a swift horse lent him by the good old chief, hurried after the hunters.

Towards evening the approach of the steamer Yellowstone, or rather the fire-ship, being noised abroad, the whole population of the village, male and female, young and old, congregated on the water's edge to witness its arrival. There is no greater error in circulation with regard to the Indians, than that of either supposing them without curiosity, or as disdaining to evince any emotion of the kind. On great occasions, in solemn deliberation, when within view of thousands of whites, and perhaps among certain of the nobler tribes, the famed Indian stoicism certainly exists. But in their native wilds, surrounded only by their wives and little ones, they are

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true descendants of Eve, and can joke, laugh, and be curious with the best of us. The approach of a fire-  
canoe, of which the population had heard a description  
from the few who had seen one, was so rare and extra-  
ordinary an occurrence, that their anxiety was raised  
to the highest pitch. Wherever the Yellowstone had  
been, she had been held by the Indians as big medicine.  
Unlike the Dutch at Newburgh, on the Hudson, who  
thought a steamer a floating saw-mill, they could give  
it no name; and when its twelve-pound cannon and  
eight-pound swivel were discharged at intervals, their  
wonder was complete. 'Some of the inhabitants threw  
their faces to the ground, and cried to the Great Spirit;  
some shot their horses and dogs, and sacrificed them to  
appease the Great Spirit, whom they conceived to be  
offended; some deserted their villages, and ran to the  
tops of the bluffs some miles distant; and others came  
with great caution, and peeped over the bank of the  
river to see the fate of their chiefs, whose duty it was to  
approach and go on board. Sometimes they were thrown  
neck and heels over each other's heads and shoulders—  
men, women, children, and dogs—sage, sachem, old and  
young—all in a mass, at the frightful discharge of the  
steam from the escape-pipe, which the captain of the  
boat let loose for his own amusement.\*

After a short delay, Williams, who stood amid the  
throng of chiefs, gave notice that the steamer was in  
sight, and soon it became plainly visible ploughing its  
way up the winding river, its black smoke and white  
steam escaping at intervals, while the guns sent forth  
thunder. In-ne-cose, who had kept apart from his  
rival, scowling and fierce, now approached, and, terror  
and consternation in his face, plainly demonstrated his  
wish to be on good terms with the relative of so terrible  
a monster. Williams, however, scorned his advances,  
and remained in converse with War-Eagle. Meanwhile  
the boat came rapidly nearer and nearer, and various  
names were given it. One called it the 'big thunder-  
canoe,' another the 'big medicine canoe with eyes,' and  
all decided that it was a great mystery. In a short  
time it came in front of the village, and all was still and  
silent as the grave until it was moored, when Williams  
led the chiefs down to the water's edge, and on board.  
In-ne-cose, not yet recovered from his anxiety, followed  
in the rear. Cordial greetings took place between the  
whites and the Blackfeet, who, however, were chiefly  
occupied in examining the wonderful structure which  
'saw its own way, and took the deep water in the  
middle of the channel.'

Early on the following morning the steamer, having  
landed the young medicine's tent and baggage on the  
beach, departed on its way down the river, leaving  
Williams alone with his red friends, save as far as an  
honest Canadian trapper might be considered society.  
Williams's first duty was to erect his wigwam, and de-  
posit his treasures therein, composed of ammunition, a  
medicine chest, and sundry matters agreeable both to  
male and female Indian taste. This, with the aid of  
Bogard, was soon effected, and on the very spot desig-  
nated by War-Eagle. Scarcely was their duty con-  
cluded, when a messenger—an Indian lad as usual—  
summoned the two white men to a council of  
the chiefs. Bogard and Williams obeyed, though neither  
could understand the reason of this sudden requisition.  
They, however, followed in silence, and were led to the  
open place of the village, in front of the council cham-  
ber, where the chiefs were assembled in the open air, in  
the presence of the women and young men. A single  
glance satisfied Williams of the nature of the subject to  
be deliberated upon. In-ne-cose was smoking his  
tomahawk pipe with the most stoical gravity, his form  
enveloped in a rare and beautiful Mexican poncho; but  
round the corners of his mouth there was a smile of  
malicious meaning, and a furtive rolling of the eyes to-  
wards the spot where, standing upright near her father,

was Ah-key-nes-tou, a model of beauty and female  
modesty, with a slight dash of pride. As Henry Wil-  
liams sat gravely down, forming one of the circle of  
chiefs, Bogard, who took his place close in his rear,  
whispered in his ear a few sentences. Williams looked  
hastily at In-ne-cose, examined him curiously, and ap-  
pearing convinced of the truth of his Canadian friend's  
remarks, he turned deadly pale, and a shudder came  
over him. Regaining his outward composure by a  
strong effort, the young medicine accepted the calumet,  
and took several whiffs; he then relapsed into inacti-  
vity. For ten minutes not a syllable was heard, when,  
at a sign from the War-Eagle, In-ne-cose arose.

'A pale-faced medicine, a son of the big thunder  
canoe, has pitched his tent by the wigwams of the Black-  
feet. It is good. There is much ground which is empty,  
there is plenty of buffalo; my young friend is rich, and  
a great warrior; his skin is white, but his heart is very  
red—he will be a friend to the Blackfoot, who calls him  
brother. But the young medicine is alone; he has no  
squaw to cook his meat, to saddle his horse, and make  
his bed with soft skins and bulrushes—he has no wife  
to bring home the game which he kills, and the path to  
the Crows is very long; he cannot have a slave. Look  
around; the young women of the tribe are many;  
the dogs of Assinebois came in the night, and took  
scalps like sneaking faint hearts (Indian expression for  
a dandy, a character despised by these warlike people),  
and the women are plenty as buffalo: they are very  
fair; my young friend is rich—he can buy two wives;  
let him choose; and he can take his squaw when In-ne-  
cose takes Ah-key-nes-tou. I have said.'

An emphatic 'hugh!' proceeded from the whole  
circle, both those who understood the secret motives of  
the Iron-horn congratulating him on his cunning, and  
those who did not, sincerely wishing to see the son of the  
big thunder canoe adopted into the tribe. Williams  
rose immediately, and as he understood the language  
sufficiently (Ah-key-nes-tou had been his teacher), ad-  
dressed the assembly without the aid of an interpreter:  
'In-ne-cose is a dog.' This unexpected opening riveted  
every eye upon the speaker, though not a muscle ap-  
peared to move in any one of the dusky forms, save  
Ah-key-nes-tou, who looked at her lover admiringly.  
'His skin is that of a Blackfoot, because he is very  
cunning, and has painted, but his heart is the heart of a  
Crow. Does a Blackfoot lie?—does a Blackfoot steal?  
It is a Crow that is guilty. The Great Spirit is angry;  
a vulture is among the eagles, and would carry away  
the prettiest eagle; but the Manitou wills it not. In-  
ne-cose will be in his happy hunting-ground before the  
sun goes seven times to sleep; but In-ne-cose will take  
many Blackfeet with him—warriors, sachems, women,  
children, perhaps Ah-key-nes-tou; and Williams, deeply  
moved, could only add, 'I have said.'

The War-Eagle rose hastily, evidently alarmed, and,  
turning to the young lover, said, 'My pale-face brother  
is very wise; the Great Spirit tells him his will. Why  
is he angry? In-ne-cose is a Crow, and if he be a vul-  
ture, and the Manitou says it, he must go.'

In-ne-cose and Williams rose together, but the former,  
who, though not altogether successful in concealing his  
emotion, still preserved the stoical and calm gravity of  
a chief, gave way, and the young medicine proceeded to  
explain himself. He informed the assembled warriors  
—in language too circumlocutory and figurative to be  
rendered into English literally—that on the passage up  
the Yellowstone but two days before, a Mexican mer-  
chant, on his way to Santa Fé, had died of the small-  
pox, a disease which, he informed the Indians, was  
terribly contagious to those who were not guarded  
against it by a great medicine operation. The mer-  
chant who had died owned, among other things, the  
blanket, or poncho, which now enveloped the form of  
In-ne-cose, and had actually breathed his last with it  
around him. As all those in the steamboat, besides, were  
American citizens, and were vaccinated, the man's  
clothes had been merely hung up in the wind; but In-

\* The words here employed are those of Mr Catlin, who, how-  
ever, does not give the subsequent part of this history.

ne-cose having stolen the article in question, and worn it during many hours, he felt quite sure that death was his portion. Williams added, that every Indian who went near him, who touched him or his blanket, who came within range of the same atmosphere, would die also, unless, indeed, he could with his medicine save them. 'It is very black; a dark night is coming; the Great Spirit is angry; one month, and perhaps not a Pe-a-gun lodge will be full. But In-ne-cose loves Ah-key-nes-tou; let her go to the lodge of the pale-face, and the pale-face to the wigwam of the Iron-horn. Seven suns will not pass ere the Great Spirit calls many to his happy hunting-ground.'

Long ere Williams had done speaking every living being within the arena had moved to a distance from In-ne-cose, who sat still smoking his pipe, to all outward appearance as calm as he had previously been. A slight pallor through his dusky skin might have been visible to a keen observer. Slowly rising at last, he turned gravely to Williams: 'The Great Spirit is in the clouds, and calls all his people to him, and they must go. The little ones of the Iron-horn slept on the mystery blanket; they woke, and were well. Will the bad spirit touch them?' And disdaining to show fear for himself, the wretched man drew the poncho closer about him.

'The lightning blasts the old oak and the young sapling,' replied Williams.

'In-ne-cose is rich, he has four squaws; if the young medicine of the pale-faces will drive away the bad spirit from the little ones, he may take Ah-key-nes-tou to his wigwam.'

Williams seized the warrior's hand, and wrung it with energy. Telling Bogard to lead Ah-key-nes-tou to his tent, and then to bring down the medicine-chest, the white mystery-man followed his late rival to the wigwam of his children. We hesitate to paint the scene which followed. Let us borrow the words of a native historian. 'The infected article spread the dread infection among the whole tribe. They were amazed at the appearance of the disense. The red blotch, the bile, congestion of the lungs, liver, and brain, were all new to the medicine-men; and the body falling in pieces while they buried it, struck horror into every heart. In their frenzy and ignorance, despite the advice of the white doctor, they increased the number of their sweat ovens upon the banks of the stream; and, whether the burning fever or want of nervous action prevailed, whether frantic with pain, or tottering in death, they were placed in them, sweated profusely, and plunged into the snowy waters of the river. They endeavoured for a time to bury their dead, but these were soon more numerous than the living. The evil-minded medicine-men of all ages had come in a body from the world of spirits—had entered into them, and were working the annihilation of the Blackfoot race. The Great Spirit had also placed the floods of his displeasure between himself and them; he had cast a mist over the eyes of their conjurors, that they might not know the remedial incantation. Their hunts were ended; their bows were broken; the fire in the great pipe was extinguished for ever: their graves called for them, and the call was now answered by a thousand dying groans. Mad with superstition and fear, brother forsook sister, father his son, and mother her sucking child, and fled to the elevated vales among the western heights, where the influence of the climate restored the remainder of the tribe to health. Of the 2500 families existing at the time the pestilence commenced, one or more members of 800 only survived its ravages; and even to this hour do the bones of 7000 or 8000 Blackfeet lie unburied among the decaying lodges of their deserted village on the banks of the Yellowstone.\*

In-ne-cose—some said the blanket was given him by a trader who hated the Blackfeet—died among the earliest; while Ah-key-nes-tou, persuaded by Williams,

was the first who fled. The medical student did his best to persuade the Indians to abandon the place at once; he also exerted himself to save as many as possible; but both his advice and remedies being disregarded, he took a canoe, and, with Ah-key-nes-tou—now an orphan—and Bogard, made the best of his way to St Louis. No longer a lover of the wilds, he braved the ridicule of society, and, marrying his Indian bride, took up his residence on the banks of the Missouri, in the town above-mentioned, and no medical man in the state has a higher reputation than our hero. Last time I heard of him was through a paragraph in the St Louis Republican, which said, 'FOR SENATOR, that eminent patriot, Dr Henry Williams.'

## FACTS ABOUT THE CHINESE.

### THIRD ARTICLE.

THE great principle upon which both the political and social system of the Chinese is founded, is parental authority. It even forms the basis of their national religion; for, though they believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, he is not worshipped, the emperor being considered the only intercessor with Heaven. The people confine their prayers to their ancestors, and make sacrifices to them before domestic idols. Indeed the ancient lawgivers appear to have aimed at making the Chinese less a religious than a moral people. This spiritual indifference begets a general toleration for other creeds, amongst which Buddhism has the largest number of disciples.

Their sacred regard for ancestry makes the people proficient genealogists, and the meanest individual can trace his descent with accuracy—a matter of the less difficulty, as each family keeps itself apart from the rest. Amongst the whole population of three hundred millions, there are no more than four hundred and fifty-four clans, and consequently only that number of surnames, all of which are of one syllable, except thirty, which have two. To obviate confusion as much as possible, a man is allowed only to marry a woman of a different family, that he may be able to unite two surnames. The feeling of clanship is carried to the high point of all persons of the same name considering themselves cousins, and there exists a silent contract between them to help each other. Gutzlaff, who, though a Prussian, bears a remarkable resemblance in feature to a Chinaman, and was enabled to become a naturalised citizen of the Chinese empire, having entered a clan, was suddenly surrounded with a host of cousins, some of whom laid claim to his charity, while others very readily assisted him. The vast numbers of which the clans are composed, and the adherence of the members to a common interest, are powerful checks to the despotism of the imperial as well as to the local governments. Sometimes the fraternities quarrel amongst themselves; and in 1817 the Tsae and Wang clans, in the province of Fokein, fell out and fought, till many were killed and several houses burnt. The police proving ineffective, the government were obliged to call in the aid of the military to put down the riot, so formidable was it.

Their regard for parentage counterbalances in a great degree the least amiable trait in the character of the Chinese, which is, the low estimation in which they hold the female sex; for it is only in the character of a mother of male children that women meet with the respect which is naturally their due. Scarcely in any country does woman play so unimportant a part as in China. A Chinese philosopher, quoted by Mr Ellis, while exhorting husbands not to desist from instructing

\* See Farnham's Great Western Prairies.



their wives, declares that 'even monkeys may be taught to play antics—dogs may be taught to tread a mill—rats may be taught to run round a cylinder—and parrots may be taught to recite verses. Since, then, it is manifest that even birds and beasts may be taught to understand human affairs, how much more so may young wives, who, *after all*, are human beings.' Though little attention is bestowed on their mental improvement, great stress is laid on their personal appearance. A Chinese beauty must have a broad and pale face, a small waist, club feet, and finger-nails of immense length. A British officer, during the recent expedition, having entered a house after a terrible siege and carnage, observed the body of a lady lying on the ground. 'While looking at her,' he says, 'I observed what appeared thin brown slips of bamboo loosely fastened round her wrists, and remarked to Mr Gutzlaff\* how singular it was that they should have found it necessary to bind her. But he exclaimed—Those were her nails! and true enough it was, as I found when I looked close.' It appears that fine ladies are in the habit, when going to bed, of softening their nails in warm water, and then winding them round their wrists, to prevent injury. Women of the lower class, and men also, wear long nails, but only on their left hand, so as not to interfere with their manual labours. The hair of Chinese women is dressed in various fantastic shapes, unlike that of the men with its universal tail; and females in different districts have different fashions. Everywhere, however, the hair is worn loosely before marriage, and afterwards bound up. The higher classes intersperse it with gold and silver pins: in some provinces every woman wears artificial flowers. Small birds made of thin gold-leaf and pearls adorn the heads of the young and wealthy; but, though they twist it in the most intricate plaits and knots, they never wear ringlets. Their dress differs less from that of men than that of the two sexes in Europe.

The marriage customs of the Chinese are very generally misunderstood. It is thought that they are polygamists, which is not the case, for only one *Tey*, or wife, is allowed by law. The importance, however, of having male descendants gives a man the privilege of taking a *Tsit*, or handmaiden, in case his wife have no son; but if she have male children, and he takes that privilege, he diminishes his respectability. From the peculiar belief that all matches are predestined, courtship is unknown in China. The whole affair is settled by the parents, to whom both bride and bridegroom are obliged to pay implicit obedience. The most essential circumstance in a match is, that the 'gates should correspond'; in other words, that the couple be of equal rank and fortune. The ceremonies performed at weddings have often been described, and need not be repeated here.

'The birth of a son,' says Mr Davis, 'is of course an occasion of great rejoicing; the family or surname is first given; then the "milk-name," which is generally some diminutive of endearment. A month after the event, the relations and friends, between them, send the child a silver plate, on which are engraved the three words, "long-life, honours, felicity." The boy is lessoned in behaviour and in ceremonies from his earliest childhood, and at four or five he commences reading. The importance of general education was known so long in China, that a work written before the Christian era

speaks of the *ancient* system of instruction, which required that every town and village, down to only a few families, should have a common school. The wealthy Chinese employ private teachers, and others send their sons to day-schools, which are so well attended, that the fees paid by each boy are extremely small. In large towns there are night schools, of which those who are obliged to labour through the day avail themselves. Education and literature are so widely diffused throughout the country, that it has been asserted there are more books, and more people to read them in China, than in any other nation in the world. While performing his missionary labours along the coast in 1831-3, Mr Gutzlaff found that the most effectual mode of cultivating friendly intercourse with the natives was the circulation of tracts in the Chinese language, with which he was provided. One upon the English nation was read with extreme eagerness. 'Often,' he adds, 'when I came upon deck, all hands were stretched out to receive it; a scuffle would ensue, and loud complaints were vented by those whose wishes were not satisfied.'

The domestic arrangements of a Chinese house belonging to the middle classes do not admit of the unrestrained companionship of the fair sex, who are secluded in separate apartments. At all their feasts and entertainments, therefore, the cheering presence of woman is wanting. A Chinese fashionable dinner-party is a protracted and not very lively affair. The guests usually arrive about half-past six in the evening, and the space before the door, together with the whole entrance, is lined with attendants; Chinese lanterns burn on all sides; and music, more startling than harmonious, welcomes the arrival of the company; who, as they enter, are saluted by the host with a profusion of compliments, and conducted to the dining-room. Here the guests seat themselves upon the chairs, which are ranged in two long straight rows; and tea is immediately offered in large cups, each with a little shallow saucer, serving as a lid, and the whole standing upon a plate of silver or gold. They throw some tea into the cup, and pour boiling water over it; so soon as it has stood a short time, they pour the clear liquid into the saucer-lid, and drink it as hot as possible.

By way of cover, three small cups are placed before each seat; the first on the left hand is filled with soy, which the Chinese add to almost every sort of food; the second serves for the ordinary eating; and in the third is a little spoon of porcelain for the soups. In front of these three cups—which are ranged in a line—lie two round little chop-sticks, which, in rich houses, are made of ivory. 'It is extremely difficult,' says Dr Meyen, 'for strangers to get at their food with these sticks, and the Chinese were amused with our unskilfulness: one was overheard to whisper, "Here are wise Europeans for you; they cannot so much as eat properly." Instead of napkins, small three-cornered pieces of paper are placed near the covers; these are ornamented with strips of red paper, and are used by the Chinese to wipe their hands. The dinner begins by the host inviting his friends to eat of the finer dishes. The Chinese place no cloths upon the tables; but instead, so soon as the course is finished, the whole board is removed, and a new surface, as it were, with fresh things, is served. As soon as the first course is removed, another small cup is added to each cover; this is used for drinking hot *santschu*, a fermented liquor made of rice, which at a Chinese table supplies the place of wine, and which is always served boiling: servants walk round with large silver cans, and help everybody to this nectar, which, principally on account of its heat, begins very soon to operate on the head.'

Between the different grand divisions of the dinner tea is handed round, and tobacco smoked. After several courses, small tables are placed outside of the half-

\* The Reverend Charles Gutzlaff held the post of chief interpreter to the expedition.

circle of the original tables; these are completely covered with roasted pork, and birds of all sorts. The cooks then make their appearance, clothed all alike, and very tastefully, and begin carving the roasts, which is generally done very skilfully. Other servants, who stand in front of the tables, receive the little bits into which all these roasts are cut upon small plates, and then place them on the middle of the guests' tables. At the end of the whole meal, the cooks usually come again into the room, and return thanks for the honour which had been done them, in being permitted to cater for the illustrious company.

The Chinese are much addicted to the pleasures of the table; and even the poorest person saves his means to have at least one feast on the first day of the year. But the vice which has brought with it the most important consequences is opium smoking. This baneful mode of stupefaction can of course only be indulged in by the affluent; and so largely was it spread amongst them, that the numerous 'special edicts' fulminated at the heads of the smokers by the emperor utterly failed to check it. Though, legally, opium is a prohibited article, yet, from the circumstance of nearly all the most powerful men in the empire using it, smuggling was, and always will be, readily carried on with that characteristic discordance which exists between the theory and practice of Chinese law.

Though social intercourse is kept up in China by means of an infinity of ceremonies, it is not nearly so refined as with us. The ordinary mode of saluting consists in clapping the hands together before the breast, and moving them with a slight inclination of the head. If the party be a superior, the hands are lowered till they nearly touch the ground; or in the case of very high rank, one knee is bent: even prostrations and genuflexions are common. The person thus honoured, however, always tries to prevent so extreme an exhibition of deference, and a very ridiculous struggle of politeness often ensues. Women let their hands fall gracefully down, and make a kind of courtesy. Every sort of friendly encounter has its prescribed ceremonies: unexpected interviews between equals, for instance, are marked by kneeling and repeatedly rising.\* The ordinary expression is, *Hoon—tsing, tsing*; that is, 'Are you well? hail! hail!' The ceremonial language is, however, far more bombastic. An invitation to a private feast is conveyed some days before in a crimson-coloured note, on which is inscribed the time appointed, and an intreaty that the guest will bestow 'the illumination of his presence.† Visiting tickets correspond in size to the rank of the visitor. They consist of his name and titles inscribed down the middle (the Chinese language is written in perpendicular columns, not in horizontal lines, as with us) of a folded sheet of red paper, ornamented with gold leaf; and if the rank of the owner be very high, the sheet is sometimes of sufficient length, when opened out like a screen, to extend across a room. If the visit be made in the morning, this placard-like ticket is white, with blue letters.

A further enumeration of the forms used in ordinary life would be tedious rather than interesting; suffice it to say, that the most trifling act of social life is a matter of etiquette, and regulated by the imperial statutes. The prevalence of minute ceremonies, far from exhibiting a high, shows a low, or at most a middle state of civilisation. This is the case in China: with all their outward civility to each other, the selfishness begot by the arduous struggle to live in that crowded country overpowers all the nobler feelings. It is considered a disgrace not to overreach one's neighbour; and imposition and deceit only reflect disgrace from the clumsy manner in which it has been performed. 'Telling falsehoods,' says Gutzlaff, 'and glorying in it, are so common, as to incur no odium.'

In all the arts which contribute to the conveniences and luxuries of life, the Chinese were proficient when

much of the rest of the world was in the most primitive condition; though unfortunately they are satisfied with the limited proficiency they then obtained, and never strive to soar beyond it. Besides a knowledge of the properties of the loadstone, and other natural phenomena, in which they preceded for some centuries the western world, it is stated by M. Arago,\* that the Chinese have long used gas as a means of heat and illumination. He quotes the Abbé Imbert (one of the Jesuit missionaries), who declares that he visited a well from which natural gas was liberated, and led to three hundred caldrons, which it heated; and streets, halls, and workshops were lighted with gas conducted through bamboo tubes. It would, however, appear that this useful fluid has never been extensively applied. Here, as in everything else, they stop short at the first discovery. Amongst their talents, as at present manifested, there is none superior to their power of imitation. Give a Chinaman anything to copy, whether it be a painting or an old coat, and he will, with uncommon expertness, soon present you with its exact counterpart, to the holes in the canvass, or the patches in the sleeves. The author of a work entitled 'The Last Year in China,' gives an amusing instance of the fidelity of a native artist. 'A (European) lady at Macao was having her portrait drawn. As the work proceeded, she expressed her strong dissatisfaction at the performance. "Spouse," said the painter, in the peculiar jargon current at and near Canton, "you smile a little, and lookee better." "Twas vain, for when the "pigeon"† was done, the indignation of the fair one was so great, and so disagreeably expressed, that the irritated artist naively exclaimed, "If handsome face no got, how handsome face can make?"' English artists, who are far less exact in their copies from real life, could teach him.

During the recent expedition, instances of the readiness and skill with which the Chinese take advantage of any improvement noticed in our mode of warfare or machinery, were constantly meeting the observation of the officers. The most remarkable is related by Commander Hall in his narrative of the voyages of the Nemesis steamer. Finding their war-junks unable to compete with our vessels, they constructed not only gun-boats, but, in imitation of our paddles, wheeled vessels, which were 'brought forward against us with great confidence at the engagement of Woosung, the last naval affair of the war, and were each commanded by a mandarin of rank, showing the importance they attached to these new vessels.' The wheels were of wood, very like an undershot mill-wheel, and were moved by machinery inside; the vessel was worked by a sort of capstan by manual labour, the crew walking it round and round, just like walking up an anchor on board a man-of-war; the horizontal revolution was turned into the upright one by strong wooden cog-wheels upon regular mechanical principles.

The aptitude and ingenuity shown on this occasion afford proof that, if untrammelled by the laws deduced from antiquity, the Chinese would soon make rapid strides in the right direction. But their prejudices are so rooted in their minds, and so inveterate with their political and religious system, that speedy changes from the effect of European example are not to be looked for. Still, it would be rash to augur that the present system of the Chinese is to be of long continuance. Fifty years ago, any change in Turkish or Persian manners would have seemed absolutely hopeless: now there is a rapid progress towards European modes observable in those nations. Already the first grand difficulty in China has been overcome; the people will now have opportunities of witnessing European improvements of all kinds, and their inclination to adopt them is undoubted.

\* See the *Annuaire* for 1833.

† This is the nearest sound it is possible for a Chinaman to utter to the word 'business.' In like manner no Chinese mouth can accommodate itself to the letter 'r,' which they always convert into 'l'; hence in selling rice, the stranger is led to suppose the bargain concerns a far less agreeable article.

Under these circumstances, it cannot well be supposed that they will long rest content with things as they are. A mental movement, or march of intellect, may be among the moral phenomena of this country within the present century.

### BEAU BRUMMELL.

BEAU BRUMMELL was one of that class of whom the world is inclined to say it could better spare better men. The emptiness of the assumed merits, and the utter inutility of the life, are acknowledged; but yet there is a fascination which all but persons determined to be very severe will hardly fail to feel. That there was a full measure of this indescribable charm about Brummell, was proved by his actually, without rank, and with little fortune, acquiring a kind of ascendancy over a large portion of the proud aristocracy of England. It may be said to have also proved itself by the publication, thirty years after the conclusion of his reign, of a book, in two volumes octavo, professing to record his life.\*

From this work it appears that Brummell was born in 1778, one of the children of a man of humble extraction, who had risen by merit to be private secretary to Lord North and high sheriff of Berkshire, and who left about sixty thousand pounds to his family. The beau was educated at Eton, where his conduct was so good, as to save him from being on any occasion subjected to corporal punishment; but already his taste in dress was beginning to appear, and he gained the sobriquet of *Back Brummell*. His education was continued at Oxford, but for no long time, as he entered the army at sixteen in the capacity of a cornet in the Tenth Hussars, the Prince of Wales's regiment.

A patrimony, which during his minority increased to thirty thousand pounds, might, with his pay as an officer, have kept him at ease for the whole of his life; but Brummell had no idea of the value of money, and he naturally wished to spend on the same scale as his companions, the chief of whom was the prince. Then his tastes were of the most luxurious kind. We acquire an idea of his notions about expense from the answer which he gave to a lady who asked what her son could dress well for—“Why, with strict economy, it might be done for £800 a-year.” Even the duties and restraints of his commission were quickly felt to be too much for the self-indulgent habits of Brummell, and he quitted the army at twenty. Not long after this period, he is found to have ascended to the summit of fashionable notoriety, and to have become arbiter and autocrat in matters of foppery, even the Prince of Wales yielding to him in this respect. According to his biographer—“Brummell's tailors were Schweitzer and Davidson in Cork Street, Weston, and a German of the name of Meyer, who lived in Conduit Street. The Stultzes and Nugees, &c. did, I believe, exist in those days, but they were not then held in the same estimation as their more fortunate brethren of the shears. Schweitzer and Meyer worked for the prince; and the latter had a page's livery, and on great occasions superintended the adornment of his royal highness's person. The trouser, which opened at the bottom of the leg, and was closed by buttons and loops, was invented either by Meyer or Brummell; the beau at any rate was the first who wore them, and they immediately became quite the fashion,

and continued so for some years. A good-humoured baronet and brother Etonian of his, who followed him at a humble distance in his dress, told me that he went to Schweitzer's one morning to get properly rigged out, and that, while this talented purveyor of habiliments was measuring him, he asked him what cloth he recommended. “Why, sir,” said the *artiste*, “the prince wears superfine, and Mr Brummell the Bath coating; but it is immaterial which you choose, Sir John; you must be right. Suppose, sir, we say Bath coating—I think Mr Brummell has a trifle the preference.”

What were the foundations of the empire which Brummell had established? Undoubtedly personal elegance was the first quality concerned; next was the really perfect propriety of his manners; lastly, but not least, must be adduced the imposing power of his self-esteem, which gave him an unfailing confidence in all he said and did amongst his companions. Let us take from Captain Jesse a few personal traits of the beau. “His face was rather long, and complexion fair; his whiskers inclined to sandy, and hair light brown. His features were neither plain nor handsome, but his head was well shaped, the forehead being unusually high. His countenance indicated that he possessed considerable intelligence, and his mouth betrayed a strong disposition to indulge in sarcastic humour; this was predominant in every feature, the nose excepted, the natural regularity of which, though it had been broken by a fall from his charger, preserved his countenance from degenerating into comicality. His eyebrows were equally expressive with his mouth, and while the latter was giving utterance to something very good-humoured or polite, the former, and the eyes themselves, which were gray and full of oddity, could assume an expression that made the sincerity of his words very doubtful.

“This flexibility of feature enabled Brummell to give additional point to his humorous or satirical remarks, his whole physiognomy giving the idea that, had he devoted himself to dramatic composition, he would have written in a tone far more resembling that of the “School for Scandal” than the “Gamerster,” or any plot developing reflection and deep feeling. His voice was very pleasing.

“Brummell was one of the first who revived and improved the taste for dress, and his great innovation was effected upon neckcloths. They were then worn without stiffening of any kind, and bagged out in front, rucking up to the chin in a roll. To remedy this obvious awkwardness and inconvenience, he used to have his slightly starched; and a reasoning mind must allow that there is not much to object to in this reform.

“He did not, however, like the dandies, test their fitness for use by trying if he could raise three parts of their length by one corner without their bending; yet it appears that if the cravat was not properly tied at the first effort or inspiring impulse, it was always rejected. His yalet was coming down stairs one day with a quantity of tumbled neckcloths under his arm, and being interrogated on the subject, solemnly replied, “Oh, they are our failures.” Practice like this, of course, made him perfect, and his tie soon became a model that was imitated, but never equalled.

“The method by which this most important result was attained was communicated to me by a friend of his, who had frequently been an eye-witness of the amusing operation. The collar, which was always fixed to his shirt, was so large, that, before being folded down, it completely hid his head and face, and the white neckcloth was at least a foot in height. The first *coup d'archet* was made with the shirt collar, which he folded down to its proper size; and Brummell then standing before the glass, with his chin poked up to the ceiling, by the gentle and gradual declension of his lower jaw creased the cravat to reasonable dimensions, the form of each succeeding crease being perfected with the shirt which he had just discarded.

“His morning dress was similar to that of every other gentleman—Hessians and pantaloons, or top-boots and

\* The Life of George Brummell, Esq., commonly called Beau Brummell. By Captain Jesse, author of “Notes of a Half-Pay in Search of Health.” 2 vols. 8vo. London: Saunders and Otley.



buckskins, with a blue coat, and a light or buff-coloured waistcoat—of course fitting to admiration on the best figure in England. His dress of an evening was a blue coat and white waistcoat, black pantaloons which buttoned tight to the ankle, striped silk stockings, and opera hat; in fact, he was always carefully dressed, but never the slave of fashion. Still, he criticised severely the dress of others, more particularly when there was a want of neatness in it. A nobleman now living told me that when he was a young man, Brummell not only noticed him a good deal, but from the way in which he patronised him, evidently appeared to think that he was doing him a great kindness. They were walking together arm in arm one day up St James's Street, when Brummell suddenly stopped, and asked Lord — what he called those things on his feet? "Why, shoes," he replied. "Shoes are they?" said Brummell doubtfully, and stooping to look at them, "I thought they were slippers."

Another trait—The Prince of Wales took snuff, a sufficient reason for the almost universal adoption of the custom. But even this Brummell did in an elegant manner, scarcely inferior to that of his royal highness; like him, he opened his box with peculiar grace, and with one hand only, the left. One of the great amateurs of this nasal pastime, and a friend of Brummell's, still survives; and Lord P——'s cellar of *snuff*—not *wine*—is said by the tobaccoists to be worth three thousand pounds.

With these qualities, half whimsical as some of them were, Brummell associated others which must be regarded with more respect. He was a good writer of versified pleasantries for the amusement of his friends, and an invariably cheerful companion. One thing that tells much in his favour is the friendship which he inspired in many bosoms not supposed to be too much addicted to that sentiment: several of the gay associates of Brummell continued steadfast in their regard through all his errors and misfortunes, and even supported him when all other means had failed. Captain Jesse introduces an anecdote which speaks to good manners having been somewhat more than a mere matter of form with the beau. Shocked one day in latter life by the omission of an act of courtesy to a lady on the part of a young friend, he thus addressed the delinquent:—

'Civility, my good fellow, may truly be said to cost nothing; if it does not meet with a due return, it at least leaves you in the most creditable position. When I was young, I was acquainted with a striking example of what may sometimes be gained by it, though my friend on this occasion did not, I assure you, expect to benefit by his politeness. In leaving the opera one evening, a short time previous to the fall of the curtain, he overtook in the lobby an elderly lady making her way out to avoid the crowd; she was dressed in a most peculiar manner, with hoop and brocade, and a pyramid of hair; in fact she was at least a century behind the rest of the world in her costume. So singular an apparition had attracted the attention of half-a-dozen Lord Dukes and Sir Harrys sitting in the lobby, and as she slowly moved towards the box entrance, they amused themselves by making impertinent remarks on her extraordinary dress and infirm gait.

'Directly my friend caught sight of them, and saw what they were after, he went to her assistance, threatened to give them in charge of a Bow Street officer, and with his best bow offered her his arm. She accepted it, and on the stairs he inquired whether she had a chair or a carriage? at the same time intimating his willingness to go for one. "Thank you, sir, I have my chair," replied the old lady, "if you will only be good enough to remain with me until it arrives." As she was speaking, her servants came up with it; and making the cavalier a very stately curtsy, she requested to know to whom she had the honour of being indebted for so much attention? "My name, madam," replied the stranger, as he handed her to her chair, "is Boothby, but I am usually called Prince Boothby;" upon which the anti-

quated lady thanked him once more, and left. Well, from that hour Boothby never saw her again, and did not even hear of her till her death, which took place a few years after, when he received a letter from her lawyer, announcing to him the agreeable intelligence of her having left him heir to several thousands a-year! "Now, my good sir," said Brummell to the abashed youth, "for the future, pray remember Prince Boothby."

The stories told of Brummell raise fastidiousness almost to the ideal. He gave up an intended matrimonial speculation for a reason which he thus stated to a friend. 'Why, what could I do, my good fellow, but cut the connexion? I discovered that Lady Mary actually ate cabbage.' He himself confessed to having, on one occasion, consumed a pea. He had heard there was such a liquor as port. The Duke of Leinster asking his opinion of his coat, 'My dear duke, do you call that thing a coat?' He blamed his servant for having given him a bad cold, by allowing him, on a journey, to be shown into a room containing a damp stranger. Some exercises of his self-complacent wit, at the expense of Mrs Fitzherbert and the Prince of Wales, led to a rupture between the latter personage and himself, in which the beau always considered himself as the ill-used party. Soon after this event there occurred a rencontre between the prince and Brummell, of which the following carefully-ascertained particulars are given by Captain Jesse:—"Lord Alvanley, Brummell, Henry Pierrepont, and Sir Harry Mildmay, gave at the Hanover Square Rooms a fête, which was called the Dandies' Ball. Alvanley was a friend of the Duke of York's; Harry Mildmay young, and had never been introduced to the prince; Pierrepont knew him slightly; and Brummell was at daggers-drawing with his royal highness. No invitation, however, was sent to the prince: but the ball excited much interest and expectation; and, to the surprise of the Amphitryons, a communication was received from his royal highness intimating his wish to be present. Nothing, therefore, was left but to send him an invitation, which was done in due form, and in the names of the four spirited givers of the ball. The next question was, how they were to receive their guest, which, after some discussion, was arranged thus: when the approach of the prince was announced, each of the four gentlemen took, in due form, a candle in his hand. Pierrepont, as knowing the prince, stood nearest the door with his wax-light, and Mildmay, as being young, and void of offence, opposite; Alvanley, with Brummell opposite, stood immediately within the other two. The prince at length arrived, and, as was expected, spoke civilly and with recognition to Pierrepont, and then turned and spoke a few words to Mildmay; advancing, he addressed several sentences to Alvanley, and then turned towards Brummell, looked at him, but as if he did not know who he was or why he was there, and without bestowing upon him the slightest symptom of recognition. It was then, at the very instant he passed on, that Brummell, seizing with infinite fun and readiness the notion that they were unknown to each other, said across to his friend, and aloud, for the purpose of being heard, "Alvanley, who's your fat friend?" Those who were in front, and saw the prince's face, say that he was cut to the quick by the aptness of the satire."

Another anecdote respecting this quarrel shows in a striking manner the infinite self-command possessed by the hero of fashion. 'Brummell, before he sunk under the pressure of poverty, always withstood the Prince of Wales like a man whose feelings had been injured. Well do I remember an instance of this, one night after the opera. I was standing near the stove of the lower waiting-room, talking to several persons, of whom one is now alive. The Prince of Wales, who always came out rather before the performance concluded, was also standing there, and waiting for his carriage, which used to drive up what was then Market Lane, now the Opera Arcade. Presently Brummell came out, talking eagerly to some friends; and not seeing the prince or his party,

he took up a position near the check-taker's bar. As the crowd flowed out, Brummell was gradually pressed backwards, until he was all but driven against the regent, who distinctly saw him, but who of course would not move. In order to stop him, therefore, and prevent actual collision, one of the prince's suite tapped him on the back, when Brummell immediately turned sharply round, and saw that there was not much more than a foot between his nose and the Prince of Wales's. I watched him with intense curiosity, and observed that his countenance did not change in the slightest degree, nor did his head move: they looked straight into each other's eyes, the prince evidently amazed and annoyed. Brummell, however, did not quail, or show the least embarrassment. He receded quite quietly, and backed slowly step by step till the crowd closed between them, never once taking his eyes off those of the prince. It is impossible to describe the impression made by this scene on the bystanders: there was in his manner nothing insolent, nothing offensive; by retiring with his face to the regent he recognised his rank; but he offered no apology for his inadvertence (as a mere stranger would have done), no recognition as an acquaintance: as man to man, his bearing was adverse and uncompromising.

In 1816 the reign of Brummell over Bond Street, and parts thereunto adjacent, was abruptly terminated by the pressure of clamorous creditors. He took up his residence at Calais, and there for some years lived in comfort, maintained, it is said, solely by the kindness of his friends. In 1830 he obtained the appointment of consul at Caen, with a salary of £400 a-year, of which, however, £320 was set aside to liquidate his debts. Even this was taken from him in a few years by the abolition of his office, and he thenceforward depended solely on the bounty of those who had known him in his best days. It would be painful to pursue his story through his last years, which were rendered dismal by disease and paralysed reason. One picture, however, claims notice—the beau sitting by the hearth alone, under the impression that he was giving a fine evening party, having lighted card-tables in his room, and his servant to announce the imaginary entries of the gay and distinguished who had attended at his invitations in London thirty years before. Fiction has nothing superior to this. The poor beau was at last brought so low by a loathsome disease, that but for the religious enthusiasm of the Sisters of Charity, he must have died unattended. This event took place in 1840.

#### THE ROYAL NAVY OF FRANCE.

The French navy, to which, for several years past, attention has, from various circumstances, been much attracted, is a maritime force of greater power than is perhaps generally believed, when we consider the number of ships, the manner in which the department is superintended by the government, and managed by the officers and men belonging to it. To supply a deficiency which, it is believed, exists amongst general readers, we have drawn up the following statistics on the subject.

The head-quarters, or administrative department of the royal navy of France, is the office, in Paris, of the 'Minister of Marine and Colonies,' which nearly corresponds to our admiralty. The minister is assisted by a general secretary, four directors, three chiefs of division, sixteen principals, nineteen head clerks, and one hundred and sixty subordinates, making in all two hundred and four individuals, whose united emoluments amount to about £34,800 annually. From this central administration orders are issued to the provincial superintendents, or maritime prefects, whose duties bear some resemblance to those of our port-admirals. Their jurisdiction extends over the five maritime *arrondissements* into which the sea-coast of the kingdom is divided. The first of these faces the English Channel,

and extends from Dunkirk, the northernmost town of the country, southward to Cherbourg, which is the chief port. The second division takes in all the coast-towns between Cherbourg and Quimper, having Brest for its chief port. The third department stretches from Quimper to Paimbeuf on the Loire, the maritime capital being Lorient. The fourth naval prefecture begins at the Loire, and ends at Bayonne; chief port Rochefort. The second, third, and fourth divisions face the Bay of Biscay; while the fifth forms the Gulf of Lyons in the Mediterranean, having Toulon for its principal port. Each of these *arrondissements* is subdivided into *quartiers*, superintended by an officer subordinate to the prefect; and under him, again, there are inspectors, commissioners of dock-yards, store-keepers, clerks, and other officials, to the number of 2,400. These belong to what is called the administrative marine service. We now come to the navy itself.

The present number of first-class ships is seven, each carrying 120 guns, of which four are in commission: namely, le *Friedland*, le *Montebello*, l'*Océan*, and le *Souverain*. The other three were, in 1843, being built in the dock-yards of Brest and Rochefort. Besides these, there are thirteen vessels pierced for from 100 to 120 guns, twelve of 90, five of 86, and nine of 80 guns, making in all fifty-four ships of the line. Of frigates, sixteen have 60, one 58, seven 52, eleven 50, six 46, and five 40 guns. Ten of the corvettes carry 30, three 28, eight 24, and four 20 guns. Six *corvettes avisos* (cutters for carrying despatches) carry 16 guns each. Of brigs, there are twenty-five with 20 guns, three with 18, four with 16, besides twenty-three *bricks avisos*, having 10 guns each, and eight smaller brigs, each carrying 8 carronades. Of inferior craft, the French possess numerous galleots, cutters, luggers, gabarres (a lighter masted and rigged), transports, and about five-and-forty war-steamers. The rule adopted in 1841 was, that the steamers and one-half of all the vessels in the service must be kept launched, the other half remaining on the stocks, and forwarded to such a stage of finish as would enable them to be afloat at a short notice, in case of war. The total number of vessels in commission and on active service seldom reaches one hundred and fifty.

The construction and regulations of the French naval service is not very dissimilar to our own. In peace, it has only two full admirals, though one more is added during war. Ten vice-admirals and twenty rear-admirals are, however, always in the navy list. The number of *capitaines de vaisseau* (a rank equal to the post-captain of our service) is fixed at one hundred, of which twenty-three belong to the first class, and sixty-seven to the second. There are also two hundred captains of corvettes (we should call them commanders), sixty-six of whom belong to the first, and the rest to the second class. The number of *lieutenants de vaisseau* (first lieutenants) is five hundred, from which one hundred are selected for the first class. To the grade which corresponds to the midshipmen of the British navy, the title of *enseignes de vaisseau* is given, and of them there are six hundred. Those merry little probationers, who sail in all large English ships to learn navigation practically as well as theoretically, known as 'young gentlemen,' are more happily named by the French *élèves*, or pupils. The complement of the first class is two hundred, but the number of the second has no limit. To enter the French navy as an *élève* of the second class, the young aspirant has to pass an examination, and to remain two years in the ship's school. After his reception into the second class, he must spend other two years on board before he is eligible to be raised to the first class; he is then fairly on the first step of the ladder of promotion.

The sanitary department of the French navy is superintended by a medical staff, which consists of a first officer of health, or physician in chief; a second officer of health, or physician in ordinary; and a principal apothecary. The active medical service is per-

formed by an adequate number of naval surgeons, who are divided into three grades, and are distributed throughout the fleet.

#### A NEW EXPLANATION OF OLD SUPERSTITIONS.

THE *Polytechnic Magazine* [London, John Mortimer] presents, in a recent number, a paper by Dr Thomas Stone, in which an attempt is made to show the identity of certain extraordinary cases, called witchcraft and demoniacal possession, with the conditions which, in our age, attract attention under the denomination of mesmerism. It appears that, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, such cases were of frequent occurrence in both France and England, and were generally much of one character; that is, an individual, usually of tender age, and most frequently of the tender sex, was found liable to trance and convulsions, during which, in some instances, there was a talking of languages supposed to be unknown to the patient, and, in rarer instances still, an alleged power of telling what was taking place elsewhere, or what would hereafter take place. In some cases, these conditions appeared independent of all external agency; in others, the patient seemed liable to a peculiar influence from a certain person, who accordingly was believed to be practising a malignant and supernatural art. In all instances, there was, to all appearance, an utter insensibility to pain, as well as to pungent and disagreeable odours.

The case of Anne Milner of Chester, in 1564, is described by a report signed by Sir William Calverly, his wife, and other persons of distinction. "We went at about two of the clocke, in the afternoon of the same 16th day of February, and there found the mayden in her trance, after her accustomed manner, lying in a bed within the haule, her eyes half shut, half open, looking as she had been agast, never moving either eye or eyelid, her teeth something open, with her tongue doubling betwene, her face somewhat red, her head as heavy as leade to lift at; there she lay still as a stone, and feeling her pulse, it beat in as good measure as if she had been in perfithe health." The report then describes her becoming violently convulsed. "She lifted herself up in her bed, bending backwards in such order that almost her head and fete met, falling down on the one side, then on the other." A person of the name of Lane, who was reputed to possess great power over demoniacs, is then called in, who first, as the report expresses it, "willed" that she should speak, and then "willed" that she should rise and dress herself, all which she did to the astonishment of the bystanders, and a certificate to that effect was signed by all present on March 8, 1564. Here it will be perceived," says Dr Stone, "that the theory of volition, or the power of the will on the part of the mesmerist, was fully recognised."

Glanvil, in his well-known book on witchcraft, amply reports the case of Jane Brookes, who suffered for this alleged crime at Chard in 1658. She was indicted for bewitching a boy named Richard Jones, whose paroxysms were certified by many witnesses. "The boy," says Glanvil, "fell into his fits on the sight of Jane Brookes, and lay in a man's arms like a dead person; the woman was then willed to lay on her hand, which she did, and he thereupon started and sprung out in a very unusual manner. One of the justices, to prevent all possibilities of legerdemain, caused Gibson and the rest to stand off from the boy, and then that justice himself held him; the youth being blindfolded, the justice called as if Brookes should touch him, but winked to others to do it, which two or three successively did; but the boy appeared not concerned. The justice then called on the father to take him, but had privately before desired one, Mr Geoffrey Strode, to bring Jane Brookes to touch him, at such a time as he should call for his father; which was done, and the boy immediately sprung out after a very odd and violent fashion. He was afterwards touched by several persons, and moved not; but Jane Brookes being again caused to put her hand upon him, he started and sprung up twice, as before. All this while he remained in his fit, and some time after; and being then laid on a bed in the same room, the people present could not for a long time bow either of his arms or legs." In these fits the boy is said to have been able to describe the appearance of Brookes and a sister of hers named Alice, and the clothes they wore at the time, although they were living at a distance (the clairvoyance of the mesmerists, according to Dr Stone).

In the case of Florence Newton, tried at Youghal in 1661, one of the practices of the mesmerists is precisely described. It is stated that, during the trial, when the accuser had closed her evidence, the prisoner looked at her, and made certain motions of her hands towards her, upon which she immediately fell into fits so violent, that all the people that could lay hands upon her could not hold her. "In the year 1696," says Dr Stone, "a commission was appointed in Scotland by the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council to inquire into the case of Christian Shaw, daughter of John Shaw, of Bargarran (Renfrewshire). A quorum of these commissioners being met at Bargarran, and the accused persons confronted before Lord Blantyre, the rest of the commissioners, several other gentlemen of note, and ministers, the accused, and, in particular, Catherine Campbell, were examined in the presence of the commissioners. "When they [the accused] severally touched the afflicted girl," says the report, "she was seized with grievous fits, and cast into intolerable agonies; whereupon she then present did also touch her, but no such effects followed: and it is remarkable that when Catherine Campbell touched the girl, she was immediately seized with more grievous fits, and cast into more intolerable torments, than upon the touch of other accused persons, whereat Campbell herself being daunted and confounded, though she had formerly declined to bless her, uttered these words:—'The Lord of heaven and earth bless thee, and save thee, both body and soul.'" During these trials, we are informed that the prisoners were called in one by one, and placed about seven or eight feet from the justices, and the accusers then stood between the justices and them. "The prisoners were ordered to stand right before the justices, with an officer appointed to hold each hand lest they should here-with afflict them; and the prisoners' eyes must be constantly on the justices, for if they looked on the afflicted, they would either fall into fits, or cry out they were much hurt by them."

"In the year 1697, Richard Dugdale, a boy, nineteen years of age, excited considerable attention in Surrey as a demoniac; his fits were witnessed and verified by numerous clergymen, physicians, and persons of respectability. His fits commenced with violent convulsions, his sight or eyeballs turned upwards and backwards; he afterwards answered questions, predicted during one fit the period of accession and duration of another fit; spoke in foreign languages, of which at other times he was ignorant, and described events passing at a distance. Here again I shall quote verbatim the words of the narration: "At the end of one fit the demoniac told what hour of the night or day his next would begin, very precisely and punctually, as was constantly observed, though there was no equal or set distance of time between his fits; betwixt which there would be sometimes a few hours, sometimes many; sometimes one day, sometimes many days." "He would have told," says one of the deponents on oath, "when his fits would begin, when they were two or three in one day, or three or four days asunder, wherein he never was, that the deponent knoweth of, disappointed." On one occasion, while the minister was preaching to him, he exclaimed, "At ten o'clock my next fit comes on." "Though he was never learned in the English tongue, and his natural and acquired abilities were very ordinary, yet when the fit seized him he often spake Latin, Greek, and other languages very well." "He often told of things in his fits done at a distance, whilst those things were a-doing; as, for instance, a woman being afraid to go to the barn, though she was come within a bow's length of it, was immediately sent for by the demoniac, who said, 'Unless that weak-faithed jade come, my fit will last longer.' Some said, let us send for Mr G.; the demoniac answered, 'He is now upon the hay-cart,' which was found to be true. On another occasion, he told what great distress there was in Ireland, and that England must pay the piper. Again, one going by him to a church meeting, was told by the demoniac in his fit, 'Thou needst not go to the said meeting, for I can tell thee the sermon that will be preached there;' upon which he told him the text, and much of the sermon that was that day preached." Lastly, it is certified by two of the deponents that "the demoniac could not certainly judge what the nature of his distemper was, because, when he was out of his fits, he could not tell how it was with him when he was in his fits."

After stating a great number of similar cases of individuals, Dr Stone adverts to others in which numbers were concerned—as that of the nuns of the Ursuline convent in

the city were all strength the Com nomena Paris, &c either so and of wonders 'How the exciting ing the at issue such pho them is veritable which w stood. however stance of symptom world, a fusion o exhibite simulate

SOME RE importa new sou follows I

'The m the recee Africa h to give subject I and the of Capta the Broo year the island of kind—is tude, an days' said south of small ro mainland miles, is giving tl called by in which to the ex interest the corre creati readil creat he had coast of narrative This acco who tran them an in the clo the Afric tions, ho ships mu them ret their sen nearly in El Dorad ence in f at Cape for break into con or sealer likely to object o for a mo on some was in q informat boe, and



the city of Loudun in the days of Cardinal Richelieu, who were all violently convulsed, and displayed extraordinary strength, and apparently supernatural knowledge—that of the Convulsionnaires of St Medard, who exhibited phenomena of the same description at the tomb of the Abbé Paris, &c. He argues very plausibly that all such cases are either analogous to, or identical with, those of mesmerism, and of course form an argument for the reality of the wonders of that science, so far as these are not deceptions. 'How these effects,' says he, 'were produced, whether by exciting the imagination or the fears, or otherwise affecting the nervous system of the afflicted, is not the question at issue; all we have to do with is, the simple fact that such phenomena really were developed, that the report of them is not false, that they were not feigned, but were veritable effects, depending on the operation of causes which were not then, and may not yet be, clearly understood. That they are referrible to some fixed principle, however occult, may be inferred from the very circumstance of their constant uniformity; that is to say, these symptoms of possession have been alike in all parts of the world, although it is manifest there could be no collusion or contrivance between the distant parties which exhibited them, whereby any such agreement could be simulated.'

### GUANO.

SOME recent and interesting proceedings respecting the importation of this highly fertilising manure from a new source—the west coast of Africa—are described as follows in the Glasgow Herald newspaper:—

'The mystery which so long attached to the position of the recently-discovered guano islands on the west coast of Africa having been now cleared away, we may be permitted to give a few particulars on the point, especially as the subject is still one of very great interest to agriculturists and the public generally. According to the observations of Captain Farr, of the Ann of Bristol, now discharging at the Broomielaw, and who had the honour of bringing last year the first cargo of African guano to Great Britain, the island of Ichaboe—in which the quality is of a superior kind—is situated in 26 degrees 19 minutes of south latitude, and 14 degrees 50 minutes of east longitude, four days' sail north of the Cape of Good Hope, and 14 degrees south of the Portuguese settlement of Benguela. It is a small rocky islet, about two and a-half miles from the mainland of Africa, on which, at a distance of half a dozen miles, is a native settlement, and from the inhabitants giving the name of Ichaboe to the island, it has been so called by our own seamen in our own language. The manner in which the guano treasures on this coast were opened up to the enterprise of British merchants is both curious and interesting, and the following recital of it is, we believe, the correct one. An American trader, having observed the interest which the importation of Peruvian guano was creating in Britain, as well as the high prices which it readily commanded in the market, was reminded that he had seen large deposits of a similar substance on the coast of Africa, and he accordingly published a short narrative of his observations in an American journal. This account fell under the notice of an English captain, who transmitted it to his relatives in Liverpool, and by them an expedition of, we believe, five ships was fitted out in the close of 1842 for the purpose of being loaded with the African guano for the British market. The instructions, however, which were given to the masters of these ships must have been of an imperfect kind, for four of them returned without having succeeded in the object of their search, and the fifth, namely, the Ann of Bristol, was nearly in the same predicament, when accident revealed the El Dorado which was destined to exert such a potent influence in fertilising our soil. Captain Farr happened to be at Cape Town, and one morning stepped into a coffee-room for breakfast, and while partaking of his repast, he entered into conversation with the master of an American whaler, or sealer, to whom he explained the regret he felt at being likely to return to England without being able to fulfil the object of his mission. The American bethought himself for a moment, and then stated that he had been on shore on some islands of the exact description which the other was in quest of; and, in short, he gave Captain Farr such information as enabled him to find out the island of Ichaboe, and to take the first cargo from a deposit which may

have been in the course of accumulation from the earliest ages in the world's history. With this cargo he sailed for England, and having put in at a port on the coast of Ireland in July 1843, he there found instructions awaiting him, which directed him to proceed to Dumfries and unload; and he accordingly proceeded to Carsethorn on the Solway, where the Ann was discharged, and the guano carried to Liverpool in lighters. Notwithstanding the secrecy with which these proceedings were managed, some hints respecting them reached the ears of Alexander and John Downie of this city, who despatched their confidential manager, Mr Moncrieff, with the view of obtaining such information as would open up the African guano stores more generally to British industry. A negotiation was accordingly begun at Dumfries, and terminated at Bristol, the result of which was, that Captain Farr agreed again to proceed to Ichaboe, and at the same time point out the way to a fleet which was despatched by the Messrs Downie, with sealed instructions, in the autumn of last year. Already several of these ships have arrived in Scotland, while one of them has discharged a cargo in the West Indies; and the matter being no longer a secret, a number of vessels were, at the date of the last advices, loading at Ichaboe for various ports in Great Britain. Guano is also obtained at Angra Pequena, forty miles south of Ichaboe, but it is not by any means held in such high favour as the product of the latter. It is much to be wished, indeed, that these additional supplies might be the means, by reducing the price of the article, of enabling the farmer to use it on a more extended scale; but there seems to be little prospect of this in the meantime, for the demand more than keeps pace with the supply—a great number now taking the article who never used it before, and those who formerly employed ewts. now taking tons.\*

At the time of Captain Farr's first visit the island was covered with penguins, gannets, &c. but principally the former, in numbers which altogether defied calculation. They seemed to have no acquaintance with, nor fear of man, and, in fact, offered a resistance to his encroachment on a domain which had been peculiarly their own for thousands of years. Since the crews of so many ships, however, were located at the island, the birds have almost entirely deserted their former territory, and retired to fulfil the purposes of their nature to more remote and inaccessible shores. The specimens of the penguin from Ichaboe which we have seen are about two feet in height, and as a great portion of their time is spent in the sea, they are furnished with small flaps or paddles, instead of wings, which enable them to move through the waters with great velocity, though they are unable to fly. The female lays and sits upon one egg at a time, and a hole scratched in the deposit subserves all the purposes of a nest. In this way a succession of incubations goes on for several months in the year, the young bird making its way to the sea as soon as it is able. It is the opinion of the seamen, however, that vast numbers of them never reach their destined home in the waters, but are crushed to death in their progress to it by the dense battalions of birds which have almost to maintain a struggle for bare standing-room; and in this way the guano heaps are increased as well by the bodies of the birds as by their droppings. The bodies of seals are also found on the surface of the guano deposits, which leads to the belief that they may have occasionally taken shelter there from a storm or hurricane, and having been overpowered by the potency of the ammoniacal vapour, have been unable to return to the water, and died where they lay. The guano which is brought to this country is found under a loose covering of decayed birds, recent dung, &c. and is so firmly imbedded, that it requires to be dug out by the laborious operations of the pick-axe. When thus disengaged, it is put into bags, and transferred by a sort of rope-ladder from the island to a boat, which lies at the outer edge of the surf, and from thence it is duly emptied into the hold of the vessel, which is anchored at a short distance. Ten men will lift about fifteen tons per day, but the operation is a very laborious one; and the sun is so powerful, that few of the crews escape without having their faces and hands blistered so that the outer skin is peeled off. The trip to or from the island extends to from fifty-five to seventy days, or, including the time necessary to take in a cargo, the voyage out and home requires from six to seven months. When Captain Farr left

\* A farmer in Roxburghshire contemplates using this year guano to the amount of two hundred pounds.—Ed. C. E. J.

Ichaboe, he estimated the guano deposit on that island alone to extend to 1000 feet in length, by 500 in breadth, with an average depth of thirty-five feet, containing perhaps from 700,000 to 800,000 tons. It is evident that this supply will soon be exhausted in fertilising the soil of Great Britain and her dependencies, but it is to be hoped that vast stores of the material yet exist which have never been disturbed by man. On this subject we quote the following cheering statement from the South African Commercial Advertiser, published at Cape Town in January last:—

"On the rocky headlands, or on the rocky and unmo-  
lested islands on the west coast both within and beyond  
the boundary of this colony, where the sea-fowl, from a  
vast expanse of open ocean, come to breed, enormous  
masses of this manure have recently been discovered; and  
it seems probable that all the way up the coast into the  
Gulf of Guinea, and beyond it, similar treasures await the  
agriculture of the world, by which means the sea will ren-  
der back to the land much more matter fitted to form  
organised, that is, vegetable and animal substances, than  
the rivers carry down into its depths, or the fleets of the  
nations deposit in their course over its surface."

### THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.

'Drowned! Drowned!'—*Hamlet.*

[From Hood's Magazine, May, 1844.]

Ow's more unfortunate,  
Weary of breath,  
Rashly importunate,  
Gone to her death!

Take her up tenderly,  
Lift her with care;  
Fashioned so slenderly,  
Young, and so fair!

Look at her garments  
Clinging like cerements;  
Whilst the wave constantly  
Drips from her clothing;  
Take her up instantly,  
Loving, not loathing.

Touch her not scornfully;  
Think of her mournfully,  
Gently and humanly;  
Not of the stains of her;  
All that remains of her  
Now is pure womanly.

Make no deep scrutiny  
Into her mutiny  
Rash and undutiful;  
Past all dishonour,  
Death has left on her  
Only the beautiful.

Still, for all slips of hers,  
One of Eve's family,  
Wipe those poor lips of hers  
Oozing so clammyly.

Loop up her tresses  
Escaped from the comb,  
Her fair auburn tresses;  
Whilst wonderment guesses  
Where was her home?

Who was her father?  
Who was her mother?  
Had she a sister?  
Had she a brother?  
Or was there a doer one  
Still, and a nearer one  
Yet, than all other?

Alas! for the rarity  
Of Christian charity  
Under the sun!  
Oh! it was pitiful!  
Near a whole city full,  
Home she had none.

Sisterly, brotherly,  
Fatherly, motherly  
Feelings had changed:  
Love, by harsh evidence,  
Thrown from its eminence;  
Even God's providence  
Seeming estranged.

Where the lamps quiver  
So far in the river,  
With many a light  
From window and casement,  
From garret to basement,  
She stood, with amaze,ment,  
Houseless by night.

The black wind of March  
Made her tremble and shiver;  
But not the dark arch,  
Or the black flowing river:  
Mad from life's history,  
Glad to death's mystery  
Swift to be hurled—  
Anywhere, anywhere  
Out of the world!

In she plunged boldly,  
No matter how coldly  
The rough river ran;  
Over the brink of it,  
Picture it—think of it,  
Disolute man!  
Lave in it, drink of it,  
Then, if you can!

Take her up tenderly,  
Lift her with care;  
Fashioned so slenderly,  
Young, and so fair!

Ere her limbs frigidly  
Stiffen too rigidly,  
Decently—kindly—  
Smooth, and compose them;  
And her eyes, close them,  
Staring so blindly!

Dreadfully staring  
Through muddy impurity,  
As when with the daring  
Last look of despairing  
Fixed on futurity.

Perishing gloomily,  
Spurred by contumely,  
Cold inhumanity,  
Burning insanity,  
Into her rest,  
Cross her hands humbly,  
As if praying dumbly,  
Over her breast!

Owning her weakness,  
Her evil behaviour,  
And leaving, with weakness,  
Her sins to her Saviour!

### NEW DIVING-BELL.

French journals mention with just triumph a discovery by Dr Payerne, which promises to be of vast utility in sub-marine operations. It is well known that the metal coffers used as diving-bells are supplied with respirable air by means of a forcing pump stationed above water. A constant stream of air is injected through a flexible tube, thus requiring several relays of workmen for the pump, and thereby rendering the process one of great expense and unremitting vigilance. Dr Payerne proposes to do away with this by using a bell of a new construction, in which he prepares his own atmosphere. By a chemical apparatus he absorbs the carbonic acid gas, and produces oxygen and nitrogen in proper proportions to form a respirable mixture. An experiment was lately made in the Seine with this new bell, which completely succeeded—the inventor remaining under water for fully half an hour without feeling the least inconvenience. It is stated by the scientific journals, that with Dr Payerne's apparatus a person may remain under water for an indefinite period at the depth of 150 feet; and hopes are confidently entertained of the invention being shortly adopted in the erection of deep-water structures, in searching for sunk treasure, in fishing for coral and pearl, and in other submarine operations.

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